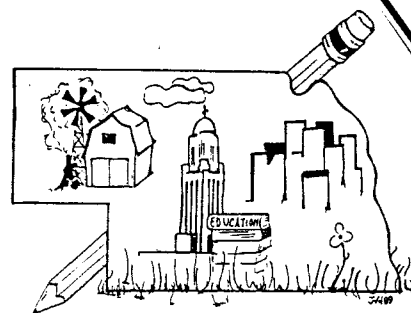


The Nebraska Observer

Vol 5, No. 3 February 28, 1990



formerly WHAMO
See WHAMO Pullout!

Citron Cited; Two of DeCamp Five Now Named

by Frances Mendenhall

Peter Citron, former World-Herald entertainment columnist, and one of two people with World-Herald ties cited in the DeCamp memo as "central figures" in the Franklin child sex abuse investigations, was indicted for charges of child sexual assault Friday, Feb. 23. The Citron arrest resulted in disclosures by his attorney and by the World-Herald that both Citron and former head of the failed credit union Larry King were among the names mentioned on the memo. Until that point no media source had intentionally published or broadcast any of the names. The Herald stressed that the charges brought against Citron had no connection to what is being investigated related to Franklin, and at the same time, suspended Citron indefinitely, without pay.

Attorney Cites Conflict

Following Citron's arraignment, his attorney, James Martin Davis, withdrew from the case, saying that his previous knowledge of matters relating to the Franklin investigation would present a conflict of interest in his defense of Citron, who, according to Davis is a "target" of the Franklin investigation. "Not to withdraw," he was quoted by the World-Herald, "would lead to the appearance of a conflict that could harm Citron and undermine public trust."

Davis, who had been consulted by State Sen. Loran Schmit and others connected with the investigation about how to conduct

the investigation and about the possibility of his serving as special prosecutor for the Douglas County grand jury. In the course of those discussions he had been privy to information about details relating to the investigation.

Davis' conflict was that if he then used such information to help his client with the criminal charges, possibly offering his cooperation on the other investigation in exchange for a reduction of charges, there could have been the appearance that his primary concern was the Franklin investigation rather than the best interests of his client.

Commenting about the damage done by ongoing rumors about those involved in the investigation, Davis said he wondered why those named in the DeCamp memo don't publicly answer the rumors. "Why didn't (they) come out fighting? Silence gives consent," he said.

Herald Silent About Others Named

Many Omahans have brought up the paper's failure to openly deal with the apparent conflict presented by its coverage of a matter that could involve a highly-placed person within its own ranks. A Feb. 21 meeting by Concerned Parents, a group formed to raise awareness about the child-abuse issues related to the Franklin, focused heavily on the perception that the World-Herald



MENZES
NEBRASKA OBSERVER
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was inappropriately attacking the credibility of the alleged victims, with no mention of any related facts about the "central figures."

Trish Lanphier, group spokesperson, demanded that the paper "either stop reporting about the witnesses or report about the suspects."

"The suspects need not be named," said Lanphier. "General information, similar to the information about the witnesses (could

be given). Tell us their height, weight, age, color of hair, color of eyes, what school they went to, what grades they got, what kind of activities they are involved in, what boards they sit on."

Open Door Leads to Different Paths

by Frances Mendenhall

Pastor Bob Timberlake of the Open Door Mission calls his philosophy for caring for the homeless a "carrot and stick" approach. Others less charitably refer to it as "soup 'em, soap 'em and save 'em."

Different Rules

The rules at the Mission are different from other shelters for the homeless in Omaha. For one thing, the Mission is the only shelter that charges its guests. If it gets a resident a job, the person is asked to give the Mission 10 percent of their wages. If the resident takes part in the Mission's 12-month program, called the "disciples," he or she might be charged up to \$285 a month if he receives a government assistance check, according to a World-Herald article. Pastor Bob discounts the importance of this, saying that no one unable to pay is refused a place.

Another difference is that there are two standards of treatment. Most who come there are "overnight guests," and qualify for one level of hospitality. Those who choose to become disciples, however, receive extras. Instead of sleeping in a 56-bed common dorm, disciples have semi-private rooms. They eat separately from the overnight guests and are said to receive better food. Former guests tell stories of disciples getting first choice of clothing that comes in and temporary jobs. Disciples also fill certain positions such as resident shift manager, which puts them in a position to enforce rules.

A recent KETV news item featured a man who was kicked out of the mission for refusing to attend chapel. Pastor Bob refers to some of the differences of the Mission with pride. "We practice Christian rehabilitation," he told this reporter. The mission plays only Christian and classical music and

offers residents plenty of material incentives to find God.

The Mission has a practice of encouraging residents to tell people on tours their

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A legislative blow to independent banking — p. 2
What can we learn from the DuBose drama? — p.3
Arts and Events — pp. 5 & 6
Norris Alfred examines the Laughter Curve — p. 7
WHAMO returns! (See pullout.)

the nebraska observer

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Nebraska Losing Autonomy in Banking

by Frances Mendenhall

Recent years have seen much erosion in Nebraska's tradition of independent banks, which required every bank to be separately and independently owned. Gradually, branch facilities and remote facilities entered the picture, but with limits on types of services offered (deposits and withdrawals, but no loans) and on distance from the primarily institution. There are many reasons for this; rural people, for example, have argued that this policy would keep capital from flowing into urban projects.

Most Nebraskans also agree that it is desirable for Nebraska banks to be owned by Nebraska based holding companies, and for these holding companies not to be in the hands of too few people.

A bill now before the Unicameral, LB 1146 (Schmit), is seen by some as one more step in increasing concentration of deposits, opening the door for out-of-state ownership, and making regulatory measures more difficult to enforce. It made it through General File Feb. 20 with very little opposition from our 49 senators. No one who has seen the

influence of the banking lobby on Nebraska's Legislature was surprised.

LB 1146 would regulate the lid on the total percentage of the state's deposits that can be held by an single holding corporation. The main part of the bill allowed for the purchase of failing Nebraska savings and loans by a holding company without having the additional deposits count against the total. This was done to assure that our savings and loans would stay in control of Nebraskans. So far so good.

But when the bill was debated on the floor, an amendment to raise the cap from 12 percent to 15 percent was added. This amendment was lobbied for by FirstTier, Nebraska's largest bank holding company, which would then be allowed to increase its total deposits by \$600 million. FirstTier's David A. Rismiller argued that leaving the cap as it was would encourage out-of-state takeovers. But Sen. Dan Lynch, who made the bill his priority, pointed out that whether the cap was set at 12 or 15 percent was hardly material, in view of the fact that no Nebraska financial institution is anywhere near

as large as any of the nation's top 100; so whether they are tiny on a national scale or slightly larger than tiny, they still couldn't compete with the top 100. What was of concern to Lynch and others was that FirstTier might be trying to become more marketable to out-of-state companies. Recent rumors have had it that persons have been hired and fired within FirstTier in recent months for the purpose of making the bank more marketable. Lynch said he was considering offering an amendment that would keep FirstTier from selling to an out-of-state company any time during the first three years after the cap was raised.

The amendment met with resistance from Sen. Dave Landis, who offered an amendment to limit the increase in the cap to 13 percent (from 12), instead of the proposed 15. Only 15 senators voted with him.

The bill still has to make it through Select File and Final Reading, where some of the provisions and long-term implications could be debated. However, with virtually all of the Legislature under the spell of the banking lobby, it seems doubtful that

anyone will resist this one arguably small loss of independence in our banking.

Voting for the Landis amendment were: Bernard-Stevens, Coordsen, Dierks, Haberman, Hannibal, Hefner, Johnson, R., Korshoj, Lamb, Landis, Lynch, McFarland, Moore, Morrissey, and Wehrbein.

Who Got What

In the last four years, bank related PACs have contributed nearly \$50,000 to the campaign coffers of current members of the Nebraska Legislature. Here are small, medium, and large recipients. Sen.s Chambers, Korshoj, Morrissey, and Warner did not receive and bank related contributions.

\$1500 or more: Chizek, Conway, Haberman, Hannibal, Lynch, McFarland, Nelson, Pirsch, Schmit, Withem.

\$500 to \$1500: Abboud, Ashford, Baack, Beck, Bernard-Stevens, Beyer, Byars, Coordsen, Crosby, Elmer, Goodrich, Hall, Hartnett, Hefner, R. Johnson, Kristensen, Labedz, Lamb, Landis, Lindsay, Moore, Peterson, Robak, Rogers, Schellpeper, Schimek, Scofield, Smith, Weihing, Wesely.

Less than \$499: Barrett, Dierks, L. Johnson, Langford, Wehrbein.

From the Editor...

by Frances Mendenhall

As more people examine the role of the World-Herald in the coverage of the Franklin related sex-abuse allegations, we at the Observer increasingly hear from our readers the need for demanding accountability in the media. This, as our old friends know, is a role we have played since our early days as WHAMO (the World-Herald Attitude Monitoring Operation). With that in mind, we dedicated the middle four pages of this issue to the old WHAMO format, drawing on thoughts of many Nebraskans who wish we had a choice of dailies.

Meanwhile, here at the Observer, we are enjoying a broader network of supporters, and some changes as well.

In February, our environmental editor, Lynn Moorner, became the Executive Direc-

tor of Concerned Citizens of Nebraska, where she will continue in a formal (read "paid") way the work she has done to oppose the location of a low-level nuclear waste dump here. Moorner has taken a leave of absence as Observer's environmental editor, but she will still be a contributing writer to the Observer on subjects such as incinerators

from which she does not get a paycheck. She has presented to Observer readers a point of view badly neglected by many mainstream media. Without doubt she will continue to articulate such thoughts and information, and we will happily draw upon her ideas as a news source, but, for the time being, not as a writer/editor.

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Observer Deadlines

The next issue of the Nebraska Observer will be published

March 28. We must receive your story ideas by March 13.

Copy is due by March 20. Story ideas for the May issue

are due April 17. Copy is due April 24.

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DuBose Scandal Worst Ever in NU Athletics?

by Polidoros C. Pserros

The Hartford (Conn.) Courant's four-part series on former University of Nebraska football star Doug DuBose, now battling cocaine addiction, and the stories it subsequently spawned illustrates what may be wrong with major college sports, how colleges are incapable of dealing adequately with its problems and casts doubt on the ability of even good journalism to describe what is happening. The following issues come to mind:

1) A case can be made that this was the worst sports scandal in Nebraska's history. Star running back DuBose and others told a sordid tale of drug abuse, sex and illegal money. In the most newsworthy item, DuBose admitted that he had taken cash and services in violation of federal law from sports agents Lloyd Bloom and Norby Walters. Bloom and Walters were subsequently convicted of racketeering, mail fraud and extortion. The duo had links to organized crime. DuBose, who left the agents, was deposed but did not testify at their trial and was ordered to pay taxes on \$19,700 and perform 250 hours of community service.

2) Greg Garber, the reporter who wrote the story, should be praised for getting so many to talk on the record. But Garber's "You Are There" writing style, as Omaha World-Herald sports editor Mike Kelly described it, ignored age-old journalistic rules about attribution. Considering that Garber was describing criminal acts, some of which are within the state's three-year statute of limitations, he was journalistically irresponsible. He made me mad.

3) NU Coach Tom Osborne's conclusion that the stories cost him a recruit has little merit. The story, though nationally circulated, got minimal exposure.

4) Nebraska needs a more reasonable policy regarding the disclosure of confidential information. Although DuBose talked with the reporter about his cocaine addiction, NU officials chose not to answer certain questions, according to the story. The result was that inaccurate information about disciplinary action taken against DuBose was published. Osborne also admitted that he lied to reporters in 1986 when he said that DuBose -- who, it turned out, was on suspension for failing a drug test, was injured and held out of the spring game. At question here is how NU officials deal with bad news.

The series covered much of the same territory as former Sport Illustrated writer Armen Keteyian's book, "Big Red Confidential." Keteyian used a number of anonymous sources, on-the-record sources, public records and court documents. He also has attribution problems -- quoting verbatim conversations that allegedly occurred without saying whether the reader is dealing with a memory or a transcribed tape-record-

ing. But mostly, the book tries to cover too much ground. Garber's pieces have a sharper focus.

Free Drugs 'Good for Business'

Garber's DuBose is a small-town (Uncasville, Conn., population 1,350), impressionable kid whose talent led him to powerhouse Nebraska at the height of its football power. There he saw stars Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar from the New Jersey streets. Under their wing, he learned about being a godlike star, and the benefits from those who are willing to give them drugs, money, cars and sex. DuBose told Garber that he never paid for drugs while he was at Nebraska.

In one brief paragraph, Garber quotes DuBose's regular drug dealer, who said providing drugs to stars like DuBose was an "honor," and "good for business." But, Garber added, the dealer, who was in Douglas County Corrections Center awaiting sentencing for selling crack cocaine, asked not to be named in the story. He was afraid that publicity surrounding the story could result in a more severe sentence. Considering that selling crack draws a sentence from three to 50 years, the dealer was probably wise to seek a lower profile. On the basis of the one paragraph, DuBose's drug dealer appears to have been an "honorable criminal."

In this context, an "honorable" drug dealer provides services to adults and possibly older children. A dishonorable drug dealer, it follows, would, for example, use the drugs to control members of a burglary ring or a battery of prostitutes.

Or, if the dishonorable dealer had access, a talented athlete might be persuaded to shave points in a football game or even cause his team to lose. Based on the Garber series and subsequent stories that it spawned, DuBose was teetering on the brink.

Think not?

DuBose associated with some *bad* people.

Last spring, sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom were convicted on federal racketeering, mail fraud and extortion. At that trial, the Des Moines Register reported, a competing sports agent -- a woman -- was beaten up at the agents' request, athletes who wanted to bolt from the agents were threatened bodily harm, and a Mafia henchman on leave from prison testified on behalf of federal prosecutors about his former employers.

DuBose, a potential NFL draft pick and able to command millions, was wooed by the agents with trips to Los Angeles, and the Beverly Hills high life, Garber reported in the Feb. 5th article.

After learning of DuBose's association with the two agents, Osborne, Garber wrote, "apparently had come to believe that the persona DuBose had created was darker than the worst side of the two Jersey street

kids, Rozier and Fryar." He then quoted the coach:

"Let's just say -- with the agents, the drugs, the car, the social things -- I spent as much time with DuBose as any player I've ever had."

A player may be persuaded to "fix" a game as a result of blackmail. The athlete could be threatened with exposure of his drug problem to the media, athletic officials, the NCAA or to professional scouts, thereby cutting his market value.

But with college sports, I don't think it would happen that way.

The rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing body for inter-collegiate athletics, prohibit athletes from making any money, treating acts of human kindness and friendship the same as payoffs. There are no wages and athletes, if they follow the rules, are impoverished and exploited. Everyone around them from coaches to boosters seem rich and they can see those around them making money from their skills.

As he was leaving after his stellar career, Rozier gave DuBose the following advice, Garber reported.

"You're the man now," Rozier said. "Don't forget that this is a business. You deserve whatever you get. Use the system the way it uses you."

In his book, "Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football," investigative reporter Dan Moldea quotes Dan Dawson, a Detroit gambler who says he fixed at least 32 pro football games in the 1950s and 1960s:

"(The players) came to me. I was a wealthy guy. I had money. The players weren't making any money. The owners were making all the money."

The Black Sox scandal in which eight members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team purposely lost the World Series in 1919 has been documented in Eliot Asinof's book, "Eight Men Out," and the subsequent film. The players, considered the best in baseball, were also the lowest-paid in baseball. When owner Charles Wrigley refused to pay promised bonuses, the players went with the fix.

There is an incredible passage in the Keteyian book where questions about Fryar's performance in the 1984 Orange Bowl and his gambling habits are being treated with concern by NU officials. To me, if accurate, it documents a paranoid moment in the history of the NU athletic department, but the passage suggests, in its mystery, that the worst moment in Nebraska football history came and went.

The DuBose story, however, says that the fix is within the realm of possibility.

'Sensitive Handling'

On the night before it appeared in the

newspaper, World-Herald staffers had barely 1 1/2 hours to decide what to do with the story. Kelly said the story required "sensitive handling."

"I wanted to keep in as much as I could," Kelly said in a telephone interview last month. Kelly said Garber used many sources but there were passages that were not attributed.

"It doesn't meet our standards of attribution," Kelly said. The first two stories, including the Feb. 5th article documenting the Nebraska experience, were printed with minimal changes simply because there wasn't enough time for thorough editing.

Kelly cited the opening Feb. 5th passage where DuBose is snorting cocaine for the first time on July 4, 1983, at an Omaha park. It is a scene, presumably reconstructed by DuBose, but there are no "DuBose said he felt" or "DuBose said." Fryar is listed as present but there are no observations from him.

Kelly discussed a passage about parties at DuBose's apartment: there are descriptions of a telephone that "never stopped ringing," of "women, fine-looking but their faces caked with rouge and mascara," of players mingling, then filing down the hall to DuBose's room, of players drawing cocaine, of "women, sometimes two or three in one night, walked down the hall into DuBose's room and took off their clothes." There is no attribution. Cedric Payne, described by Garber as a close friend of Fryar and DuBose at that time, is then quoted as calling it: "Fantasy Island."

Up to that point, the reader has to guess who is describing the scene. There is no mention if that scene was described by more than one observer, if there is corroboration.

Kelly said he asked Garber why he chose to write in the manner that he did. Garber replied that the newspaper's "writing coach encourages it."

"It was tough to edit this," Kelly said. "On the one hand, we didn't want to keep our readers in the dark but on the other, we have to keep our standards."

Osborne, who was upset with the stories, called up his former players instigating one particularly enlightening story from Kelly. In the Feb. 13th story, Fryar denied using cocaine while he was playing for Nebraska. The drug use, however, had been corroborated by Fryar's former girlfriend and DuBose's brother, Gary, but the description of Fryar's interview with Garber is particularly revealing. They talked in the Patriots' locker room "right before the end of the season," Fryar told Kelly.

There is no indication in the Feb. 5th story or in Kelly's Feb. 13 follow-up that Garber mentioned to Fryar that he was the person who allegedly turned DuBose to cocaine. No refutation, no corroboration.

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Mission's Door Opens Wider for Disciples

Continued from page 1

stories. However, an exception was made for a visit by the mayor Jan. 31. At that time, according to a former guest who calls himself Mike, resident shift manager Craig Stroud told the overnight guests that they were not to talk to the mayor or they would be permanently barred. Stroud, contacted by the Observer, acknowledged that guests had been told to keep quiet, but explained the incident as having resulted from a plan by certain dissatisfied "ringleaders" to disrupt the proceedings while the mayor was there. "We just wanted them to show respect for the mission and for the mayor," said Stroud. "They can tell their stories to anyone."

Some former Mission residents, however, tell stories of cruelty, verbal abuse by staff or disciples, or of having privileges arbitrarily taken away.

Pastor Bob believes that on an average day Omaha has 800 homeless and that 150 sleep at the mission, but others involved in work with the homeless say these figures are both inflated. Clearly, the Mission intends to grow, if recent fund raising campaigns are any indication. In 1987 when Pastor Bob came to Omaha, donations to the mission were \$200,000. The next year they were three times that figure. Expenses increased by a

similar proportion in the same period. There are also plans to expand the Mission into an additional building which Pastor Bob says he needs to raise \$300,000 for.

The Sick: Flu and a Stroke

The Observer has obtained a copy of a letter written by a Mission guest to the city Health Department in late November complaining about conditions at the Mission.

"...At night we are told to stay in a mobile home. If we open the door it sets off an alarm. We are let out at 7 a.m. There is no light in the bathroom, non-running water, no toilet, no toilet paper. We are told to use buckets.

"Tuesday night I developed stomach flu or food poisoning. Finally I set off the alarm and asked to be let in the ladies sitting area to be near a bathroom. The disciples...decided I should not have any heat. So with fever and chills I made it through the night at about 50 degrees. Last night although still ill, I was told I would be forced or ordered to stay in the trailer sick or not."

Donald Kofoed, 64, had a stroke at the Mission on or about Feb. 14. Another guest who calls himself Mike (not his real name) described his last hours there. "Don was sick; he was blue and his eyes were watery

and his breathing was shallow. I wanted him to grab my hand so he could see if he had any strength, but he was unable to do it. At 6:30 I told Pastor Tony Chung, who promised to take care of him, but he had not by 7:00. At 7:30 Don went to chapel services. I asked for help for Don again after chapel, but apparently they didn't do anything until Don collapsed. At 9:30 I heard the siren from the ambulance. They took Don to St. Joe's where he died a few days later. I felt very bad that this happened, because I knew he was in trouble. I trusted them to take care of the problem and they violated that trust." Mike, who stayed at the Mission during December and January, was unwilling to use his real name because of other confidentiality he needed to keep.

Fundraising

Last fall the Mission produced a film called "Home Street Home," which was shown on television and used extensively for fundraising last winter. Pastor Bob continues his fundraising with a recent letter asking for "sacrificial gifts" so that he can purchase and remodel a new building near the present facility. The letter describes services for the homeless that they provide for \$5 a day, and a program that includes

"10 hours a week of classroom instruction, two hours a week of group therapy, five hours a day of work therapy, and one hour a week of individual counseling," and "offers a GED." What the letter fails to mention is that the program applies only to the disciples, not to the larger number of overnight guests that they serve. Craig Stroud, himself a disciple, estimated the disciples to number about 35.

In his recent letter Pastor Bob is aware of some discontent about the Mission. He attributes this to "the criticism of a few shelter operators" and exhorts people not to let this keep them from giving.

While Pastor Bob clearly articulates empathy for "the tragedy, the loneliness, the heartache, the brokenness, the gut-wrenching sorrow" of homelessness, he is reluctant to blame the problem on budget cuts in the Reagan years, pointing out that things started to get worse 14 years ago. Neither does he spend any time talking about racism or sexism. (The Mission has a strict policy of sex segregation, which is one reason why the new building is needed--accommodations for women are scarce in the present facility. None of its pastors, and few of its disciples are women.) One cause he does cite, however, is loss of jobs to foreign markets.

Maybe Garber Should Test Credibility in Court

Continued from page 3

Nothing.

At the peak of the 1960s-1970s civil unrest, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that officials could subpoena unpublished materials and a reporter's testimony about criminal activity. The three journalists involved were Paul Branzburg of the Louisville Courier-Journal, who observed marijuana usage; Earl Caldwell of the New York Times, who had hearsay knowledge of Black Panther activities; and Paul Pappas, a New Bedford, Mass., television news photogra-

pher who was allowed inside a Black Panther headquarters to photograph what was believed to be a forthcoming police raid, but nothing happened and he went home.

Garber's hearsay account of drug abuse, including alleged activities in spring 1987, is within Nebraska's statute of limitations. Those abuses could result in five-year prison terms for possession and up to 50 years for drug dealing.

If Lancaster and Douglas County prosecutors want to, they could subpoena Garber's materials. The magnitude and serious-

ness of the DuBose series should not be ignored.

In describing criminal acts, Garber crossed into the line of investigative journalists, prosecutors, police.

In the Feb. 13th piece, Garber told Kelly that if Fryar and DuBose wanted to change their stories, "That's their business -- but these attacks on my credibility bother the hell out of me."

Would he prefer an attorney's cross-examination?

From the Editor

Continued from page 2

A new weekly publication, Omaha Update, published by Bob Hoig, has appeared on the Omaha scene. Fans of media critic Warren Francke will find his column on the Update's pages now. Francke wanted his column to reach an Omaha audience with more frequency. We are glad to see a new publication for Omaha, and if our favorite academic media critic gets the urge to do an article that doesn't work in his column format at the Update, he is sure welcome to do it on our pages.

We are pleased to be working with John Boyd. Boyd is the former editor of the Metropolitan, and has a long-standing commitment to providing Omaha with an alternate source of published information. John, who shares office space with us, will be a regular contributing editor.

Thanks also to John Menzies for the art work in this issue. Menzies is well known to long-time Omaha supporters of the alternate media, and we hope we can talk him into more of the same.



When the President Visited Nebraska

Mary Frank was stopped by the police the day President Bush came to town. Why? She honked her horn!

Among other underreported facts about the President's visit, we learned that Mr. Bush stumbled twice as he completed his speech in Columbus, first as he told a story about the man he called "America's greatest writer," whose name he pronounced "Mark Train."

As for the woman for whom he was campaigning, he told his audience: "Thanks for your support for Fay."

Area Events

EVENTS

March 3. "Was Nicaragua's Election Fair?" A symposium on Nicaragua's recent election sponsored by the Radical Association for Democratic Socialism. Dr. Joel Gajardo will speak in Omaha, and a satellite broadcast featuring a live speech by President Daniel Ortega and taped and live interviews with voters, international observers and opposition candidates is scheduled. Peter Kiewit Conference Center, Room 102A, 1313 Farnam. Admission is \$2.

March 9 & 10. Conference on the Environment, an Environmental rally on Friday night and a day-long seminar on Saturday. At the Notre Dame Center, 3501 State Street. Admission at the door is \$10 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday. Pre-register by March 3 for reduced rates. Call 455-2994 for more information.

Friday: 7:30 - 10 p.m. Program and Performing artists include Jackson and Almeda Berkey, David Low and Lindsey Freireich performing "Voices of the Earth"; Bret Hesla; Reginald Buckman, Elise Buchman and Tom Gellatly; Robin Neihardt and Mark Bentley; Sounds of Silence; and Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum.

Saturday: 8 a.m. opening; 8:30 a.m. Keynote

address by Dr. Mark Sagoff "The Ethics and Economics of Environmental Protection"; 10 a.m. Dialogue "Public Policy and Economic Perspectives"; 10:45 a.m. Sessions on Agricultural, Community and Private Enterprise issues; 2:30 p.m. Small Group Discussions; 3:30 p.m. Summary; 4 p.m. Finale.

March 16 & 17. The Citizens' Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste will hold a rally March 16 at 6:30 p.m. and a workshop March 17 at 10 a.m. at Duchesne Academy, 36 and California Sts. For reservations, call Dorothy Lanphier, 554-1108. Both events are sponsored by CLEAN.

March 22. Dr. Lee Simmons will speak on "Survival Plan for Endangered Species." Amy D'Galperin, wildlife biologist with the Army Corps of Engineers, will also speak. Augustana Lutheran Church, 38 and Lafayette, 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Sierra Club.

March 30 & 31. "Navigating the '90s: Piloting the Ship Together." Workshop conducted by Fredric Lehrman, author of "The Sacred Landscape." Participants will learn to be in balance with the environment while keeping pace with contemporary society. Introductory lecture, March 30, 7-9 p.m., \$20; workshop, March 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$75 preregistered, \$90 at the door, \$25 for

students with I.D. Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam. To register, call 493-3200 or 551-0795.

FILM

March 1 - 4. "War Requiem," a 1989 UK film by Derek Jarman, at the Sheldon Film Theater in Lincoln, 12th and R. Times: 7 & 9 p.m. nightly; matinees Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m. No Sunday matinees. General admission \$4.50.

March 2-4. "A Taxing Woman," a Japanese comedy, at UNO's Eppley Auditorium at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday. General admission \$2.

March 8 & 11. "Vigil" at the Joslyn Lecture Hall, 7 p.m. Thursday, 2 and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. General admission \$3.50.

March 8-10 and March 15-18. "Dangerous Loves," five stories by Gabriel Garcia Marquez at Sheldon Film Theater, 12th and R, Lincoln. General admission \$4.50. Call (402) 472-5353 for film times. Films are: "The Fable of the Beautiful Pigeon Fancier" by Ray Guerra; "I'm the One You're Looking For," by Jaime Chavarri; "The Summer of Miss Forbes" by Jaime Humberto Hermosillo; "Miracle in Rome," by Lisandro Duque; and "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings," by Fernando Birri.

March 11. "How to Get Ahead in Advertising," a 1989 film by Bruce Robinson, at Sheldon Film Theater, 12th and R, Lincoln. General Admission \$4.50. At 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m.

March 16-18. "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," a Spanish comedy, at UNO's Eppley Auditorium at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday. General Admission \$2.

March 22-25 and March 29 - April 1. "Henry V," a 1989 UK film by Kenneth Branagh at Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R, Lincoln. Showing at 7 & 9:30 nightly. Matinees Saturday at 12:15 and 2:45; Sundays at 2 and 4:30. General admission \$4.50.

March 22. "Hidden Worlds of the Big Cypress Swamps," Audubon Wildlife Film Series at 7:30 p.m. at Kiewit Center, 14th and Farnam. General admission \$3.

LECTURES

Joslyn Art Museum is sponsoring a series of Thursday night lectures in conjunction with the current show of Victorian art. The theme of the lectures is "Virtue Rewarded: Truth of Falsehood?" The series is free with mu-

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Art Calendar

Earth Day Art Show

Recycle Omaha is sponsoring the "1990 Earth Day Art Show" from April 6 -- 22 at Standard Blue's Local Artists Exchange, 1415 Harney in downtown Omaha.

The show is billed as an opportunity to create art dealing with the environment. Use of recycled materials is encouraged, but not mandatory. All media will be accepted in the show, as long as the work addresses the environment, and unframed art is preferred.

Artists who are interested in showing in the Earth Day Art Show should contact Isabel Cohen, Vice-Chairman of Recycle Omaha, at 345-5387.

Gallery Listings

Antiquarium Gallery

1215 Harney Street, Omaha, 341-8077
Through March 6: Sculpture by Jim Midlang
March 6-26: "Nameless Ones of the Prairie," acrylics by Margery Coffey on the theme of the elderly.
March 30: Deco Crap Juried Competition. An excuse for an opening get-together and party for artists, friends and supporters.

Artists' Cooperative Gallery

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha, 342-9617
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10;

Sunday noon - 5.

March 3: Bruner and Jacoby opening, 7-10 p.m.
Through March: Leela Bruner, 3-D "psycho-ceramics" and Jerry Jacoby oils and pastels.

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue 293-3732
Hours: 8-9:30 M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.
Through March 30: Bellevue College Student Art Show.

Bemis New Gallery

614 So. 11th, Omaha, 341-7130
Hours: 11-5 daily.
Through April 1: "Raw," rough drawings from the studio, work by past and present Bemis resident artists.
March 8: Thursday Night Lecture Series, 7 p.m., with Simon Lee from England and New Yorkers Ron Morosan and Terry Rosenberg.
March 21: Pillow Concert at 8 p.m. with Joshua Kuhl, bass, and Dave Christensen, guitar.
March 24: Stipend Party. Wine and buffet with Bemis artists followed by a brief slide show of their art.

March 27: Pillow Concert at 8 p.m. with contemporary guitar duo Barger & Johnson.

Burkholder Project

719 P Street, Lincoln, 477-3305
Hours: 10-5 Monday thru Saturday
Through March: Cindi Carlson

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University
27th and California, Omaha, 280-2509
Hours: 8:30-4, Mon. - Fri.; 10-4 Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.
Through March 9: "Spirited Spaces," Michael Flecky photographs.
March 24: 6-8 p.m. Opening reception for Marcil and Rymill show.
March 24-April 13: Johanna Marcil (paintings) and Richard Rymill (sculpture).

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha, 345-3347
Through March 3: John Nelson, new smaller works in mixed media.
March 16: Opening for John Himmelfarb, 7:30 - 10 p.m.
March 16 - April 7: John Himmelfarb, recent work in painting, drawing and prints, with a focal point of "Triangles," an unstretched 55 by 139-inch canvas.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln, 475-1061
Hours: 10-4:30 Tues.-Sat.; 1-4 Sunday.
Mondays by appointment.

March 4: 2-4 p.m. opening for Richard Terrill show.

March 4-18: Richard Terrill of Crete, Nebr., "Stations of the Cross," in oil.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha, 399-2621
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.
Through March 4: Nebraska Scholastics Art Awards Contest -- statewide junior and senior high school art.

Inter-Arts Project

2919 Leavenworth, Omaha
Through March 11: Mark Kemper, "No Dancing."

Iowa Western Community College

Fine Arts Gallery
2700 College Road, Council Bluffs 325-3352
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
April 2-27: Foto-Stops 90 Photography Competition.

Jewish Community Center Art Gallery

333 So. 132nd Street, Omaha
Hours: 8-10 Mon.-Thurs.; 8-5 Sat.; 1-7 Sunday.
Through March 1-31: Juan Carlos Norero Borguenson, a Chilean artist now working

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Area Events

Continued from page 5

seum admission.

March 1: "A Tale of Two Countries: The Victorian Era in the United States and England," by Dr. James Grummer.

March 8: "The Virtuous Woman: The Cult of True Womanhood in England and America," by Dr. Bryan F. Le Beau.

March 15: "A Construction of Feminine Virtue in Victorian Painting," by Dr. Martin Rosenberg.

March 22: "Angels, Fallen Angels, and Spitfires: Women in Victorian Literature," by Dr. Missy Dehn Kubitschek.

March 29: "Truth or Falsehood Resolved," a panel discussion with all speakers moderated by Graham W.J. Beal, Joslyn's director.

MUSIC

March 2. Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum choir in concert at Joslyn, 8 p.m.

March 2 and 3. Omaha Symphony Superpops in Concert with Judy Collins. Orpheum Theater, 8 p.m., general admission \$9.25 to \$22.25. Call 342-3560.

March 3. "Celebrations for Chorus and Wind

Ensemble," a joint concert of the Nebraska Wind Symphony and Die Meistersingers at UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m. General Admission \$8.

March 4. Bagels and Bach at Joslyn with the Omaha Symphony Trio, 11:15 a.m. General admission \$7.50.

March 4. Omaha Area Youth Orchestras Honors Recital, 3 p.m. at UNO Strauss PAC.

March 5. "From Russia With Love," cellist Yehuda Hannani, 8 p.m. at Temple Israel, 7023 Cass.

March 10. Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra with David Hickman on trumpet. At Joslyn, 7 p.m. Call 342-3560 for tickets.

March 11. Youth Philharmonic/Youth Chamber String Orchestra in concert at 3 p.m. at UNO's Strauss PAC.

March 14. Morning Musicale, 11 a.m. at Joslyn Concert Hall.

March 16. "Green for the Green," a benefit concert for Earth Day featuring local bands The Front, The Blue Mangos and the Personics, and hosted by Otis XII. The Ranch Bowl, 1600 S. 72 St., 8 p.m.

March 19. Cambridge Singers directed by John Rutter. 8 p.m. at First Central Congregational Church, 421 So. 36th Street, Omaha. General admission \$18.50.

March 24. "Prelude to Spring," the Omaha Symphonic Chorus and Chamber Orchestra at UNO Strauss PAC at 8 p.m. General admission \$7.

March 26. Violinist Vladimir Spivokov at Tuesday Musical. Joslyn Concert Hall at 8 p.m.

OPERA

March 28 & 30. "Romeo and Juliet," 7:30 p.m. at the Orpheum. For ticket information, call 346-0347.

THEATER

"El Grande de Coca-Cola." At the Fonda-McGuire series of the Omaha Community Playhouse. Thursdays-Sundays March 1 through April 1. Call 553-0800 for times, costs, reservations.

"Mom's Motel." A new musical by Gail Erwin presented by Circle Theater at Vidlak's Cafe, 6064 Maple. Call 553-4715 for

dates, times, costs and reservations.

Once Upon a Mattress. At Creighton PAC. March 30 & 31; April 1, 4-8. Call 280-2636 for information.

"Perhaps..." Three one-acts by Samuel Beckett. Presented by Blue Barn Theater Project at CAT Gallery, 616 So. 11th. 8 p.m., general admission \$5. March 1-4 and March 8-11. Call 341-0537

"Raisin." A musical version of "Raisin in the Sun," opens March 23 at the Center Stage, 30th and Q. Call 733-5777 for information.

"Tales of A Fourth Grade Nothing." At Emmy Gifford Childrens Theater, March 2 through April 8. Call 345-4849 for information.

"The Road to Mecca." At the Omaha Community Playhouse mainstage March 9 - April 1. Call 553-0800 for information.

"Winter Thunder." Mimi Loring adapted Mari Sandoz's story of a schoolteacher and her pupils lost for eight days in a Sand Hills blizzard. The Rudyard Norton Theatre, 5021 Underwood, March 15 through 18. Reservations 551-7360. Tickets \$7. Thursdays through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m.

Art Calendar

Continued from page 5

in Omaha. His work is a fusion of architecture, sculpture, design and painting.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha, 342-3300
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.

Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 under 12.
Free Saturday before noon and to members.

Feb. 24 - April 8: "Virtue Rewarded: Victorian Paintings from the Forbes Magazine Collection."

Local Artists Exchange

Standard Blue
1415 Harney, Omaha
April 6-22: 1990 Earth Day Art Show, sponsored by Recycle Omaha. Entries are now being accepted, call Isabel Cohen for information, 345-5387.

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th and Central Ave., Kearney
(308) 234-8559
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday thru Saturday
1990 Shows:
March 1-31: Nebraska Crafts Council 10th Annual Juried Show.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha, 551-5731
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln, 472-2461
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.

Current: "Of Time and the City: American Modernism from the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery."

Through March 4: "Mothers and Daughters," an exhibition of contemporary photographs, organized by the Aperture Foundation.

March 7: Lecture Series, 7 p.m., Grace Glueck, Art News Editor of the New York Times on "Fast-Forwarding American Modernism."

13th Street Gallery

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha
Mixed media

University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery

62nd and Dodge Streets, Omaha, 554-2686
Hours: 8-5 Monday-Friday

Art Institute of Chicago

Michigan at Adams
Chicago, Ill., (312) 443-3600
Hours: 10:30 - 4:30 Mon., Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.

Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings conceived especially for the museum's Sculpture Court.

Through April 1: "Yoruba: Nine Centuries of African Art and Thought."

Through - June 25: "Designed by the Yard -- 20th Century Pattern Repeats."

March 10 - June 3: "What's New: Mexico City."

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa, (515) 277-4405
Hours: 11-5 T, W, F, Sat.; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.
Through April 8: T.L. Solien and Mark Gordon; Print Show: A Selection from the Permanent Collection.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, Mo.
(816) 561-4000

Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$3 adults; \$1 students.
Permanent collection free on Sat.
Through March 11: "John Ahearn."

Peace Museum

430 W. Erie
Chicago, IL
(312) 440-1860
Hours: noon to 5 daily; noon to 8 Thursday
Current: "Everyone Has the Right to..." Art interpreting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
Permanent Exhibits: "The Unforgettable Fire," drawings by survivors of atomic bombings; "The Ribbon," textile art on the themes of life and hope.

Walker Gallery

Vineland Place
Minneapolis, Minn.
(612) 375-7622
(612) 375-7636 Recording
Permanent: Cowles Conservatory: Horticultural installation and "Standing Glass Fish" by Gehry.
Through May 13: "Jasper Johns: Printed Symbols"

Key to U.S. Solvency: The Alfred Raffle Curve

by Norris Alfred

One of the most "wunnerful" miracle cures for an ailing economy was the Laffer Curve which showed that as federal income tax rates were cut, federal government tax receipts increased. To believers in patent medicine cures, flying saucers, a flat earth, credit cards are cash, and the down payment is the total price, the Laffer Curve proved the correctness of their convictions.

Ronald Reagan used the Laffer Curve in his successful 1980 political campaign for President of the United States. The Laffer Curve became the cornerstone of supply-side economics. There isn't any talk today about supply-side economics. Along with other failed theories, such as communism is the wave of the future, burial is swift, without mourners.

The Laffer Curve is now the Laughter Curve though, under the aegis of the White House, several years of misrule were needed before ridicule became possible. Eventually, reality rules and the horrendous debt that now has President "Read my lips. No

new taxes" Bush in a bind is lack of cash to accompany promises of aid to Eastern European nations rebelling communist rule.

The lack of cash was due to President Reagan's grand gesture cutting federal income tax rates 10 percent per year for three years (he got 25 percent of it). His popularity increased, according to polls. While his popularity increased, tax revenues decreased. During his eight years in the White House Ronald-Reagan increased U.S. national debt from one to more than \$3 trillion.

There were several reasons for this startling increase, but the Laughter Curve was partly to blame, because it encouraged administration irresponsibility with the hocus-pocus, wand-waving act that less taxation creates greater amounts of ready cash. It was proof that the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow was for real. There wasn't a pot of gold, just a heap of I.O.U.s and now a popular George Bush has to keep shoving those I.O.U.s under an Oval Office rug.

What is happening -- the realization is slowly sinking in to the collective conscious

-- is that the United States is broke. The money isn't there. The poor Bush Boys have dipped into the Social Security Trust Fund (Trust?) to make the budget deficits appear more palatable to the rank and file, but eventually that will dry up. If Senator Moynihan has his way (he wants to cut Social Security taxes), the drying up is imminent.

My theory for solving the national debt problem is the Alfred Raffle Curve. Not only will it allow popular presidents more time to protect their popularity, the Raffle Curve guarantees eliminating \$3 trillion of debt within a four-year term. A national raffle will make the United States solvent again. Read my lips. No taxes. If you don't want to read lips, read these words.

Mikhail Gorbachev has created this opportunity by recognizing the failure of communism and proposing that Mother Russia become more democratic and feed her children food instead of theories of government propped up by military force. Gorbachev has also provided the prizes to awarded in this national raffle.

My first suggested prize is a Stealth Bomber. Every time Gorbachev makes a speech the Stealth Bomber's usefulness (if it ever had any) decreases. Certainly, a U.S. citizen will treasure having one. A half-billion-dollar Stealth Bomber will easily be worth a billion dollars as a raffle prize. Any communist-fearing U.S. citizen would like to have the personal protection of a Stealth Bomber. A Stealth Bomber guarantees victory in the "pursuit of happiness".

Next week I'll delve into another theory as "wunnerful" as the Laffer Curve. The theory surfaced at the time the speed limit on the Interstate was reduced from 75 to 55 mph. The editor of an automobile magazine said the slower speed limit would result in more accidents and deaths because drivers would be spending more time on the highway.

The United States is full of "wunnerful" citizens concerned about an increasing number of "wunnerful" things no one ever thought of before, which is why "freedom of expression" is so important.

Dissatisfied Artists, Supporters Create an Artel

by John Boyd

The Artel, a group of professional artists and their supporters, have issued a call to Nebraska artists and their patrons. The call expresses dissatisfaction with the state of contemporary arts in Nebraska, and outlines future goals for the arts in Nebraska.

These concerns and goals are contained in a document called the "Artel Manifesto" which is signed by 14 artists who are primarily working in central Nebraska, and have been meeting informally for about a year. The idea for the manifesto grew out of their unhappiness with Nebraska art institutions and private galleries, few of which, they claim, exhibit the work of full-time, contemporary Nebraska artists.

"Artists and art organizations must awaken to their responsibilities to themselves, the public and tomorrow's artist," said Nik Ratzlaff of Kearney. Ratzlaff is a sculptor and one of the principal writers of the Manifesto.

In addition to Ratzlaff, other signers of the Manifesto are: Jim Midlang, Holdrege; Margery Coffey, Alma; Richard Chilton, Alma; Christine Bump, Chadron; Patsy Waddington, Shelton; Arlen Lazaroff, Alma; Richard Luehrs, Kearney; Rip Price, Kearney; Barb Ponder, Kearney; Mark Halva, Kearney; Diane Sekutera-Kittoe, Litchfield; and Flora Kirk, North Platte.

In addition to the Manifesto, Artel has also produced a Credo and a Concept Sheet.

The less said about the Manifesto and the Credo, the better. The Manifesto seems to be primarily the product of a massive "let's get this off our chests" bitch session,

and the Credo is an attempt to outline the oxymoronic ideal of an "anarchist organization."

But, to its credit, the Artel seemed to realize this, stating at the end of the Manifesto: "Having published this roster of present problems, we are no longer interested in disputes about responsibility for inadequacies in the arts."

Their intentions, however, are good and their ideas deserve attention.

'We Advocate:'

The real meat of the three-page manifesto is in the six items listed under the heading "We Advocate:"

1) The development of new programs and services which address direct funding for artists... 2) That artists make renewed commitments to prioritize work... 3) Artists working together to elevate the arts to a higher level of priority in the state... 4) Artists working together to exhibit and otherwise market their work. 5) Artists working collectively... 6) Artists developing projects rather than organizations... 7) The statewide commitment of the art community to improve conditions and opportunities for the next generation of working artists...

The real nature of the Artel is that of an ad-hoc support and networking group for artists in central Nebraska.

"Artel is not an organization, it's a networking community," said Ratzlaff. Artel activities consist of twice-weekly free-form coffee sessions to share ideas, cooperative purchase of art materials to qualify for volume discounts, and sharing travel and trans-

portation expenses for out-of-town or out-of-state shows.

The group is also exploring the possibility of concocting joint art projects. One idea is a Dada celebration at Alliance's "Carhenge" on July 28 in honor of Marcel DuChamp's birthday.

Political, Financial Agenda

Ratzlaff stressed two action items of particular interest to him: one political and one financial.

"I try to promote the creation of issues-oriented art," he said. "The Nebraska art community seems rather passive to me. I love Nebraska, but I feel frustrated by what we are doing, and what we aren't doing, politically."

He also sees the need to channel more of the art patrons' dollars into the "commercial" channel. "Art patrons in Nebraska are dominated by organizations and agencies, and have minimal contact with artists," Ratzlaff said. "An organization like the Museum of Nebraska Art has an educational and cultural mission, not a commercial mission. But as an artist, I need to sell some of my work to survive, therefore some art patron dollars need to be shared by the commercial aspect of art," he said.

Concept Sheet

The Artel has written an interesting "concept sheet" of "Proposed Programs and Services for Nebraska Artists." It includes:

1) Artists Library Slide Registry, to be set up in 12 to 14 Nebraska public libraries. 2) An Arts/Tourism Facilitator for the state.

3) An annual state Art Competition. 4) Artists Work Grants for equipment, materials, facilities, or projects. 5) Artists Marketing Grants, for expenses involved in transporting, advertising and promoting. 6) Interstate Art, outdoor exhibits at rest areas or close to the Interstate. 7) Municipal Sculpture Gardens. 8) Downtown Outdoor Sculpture Exhibitions. 9) Annual Arts & Tourism Pilot Project, to initiate new art projects and events. 10) Art Business Support Fund, financial help for galleries, foundries, studios, art stores, etc. 11) Public Art Purchasing Committee, a proposed Nebraska Arts Council Committee which would visit area exhibits and recommend art purchases.

Ratzlaff said his group had no formal agenda to accomplish these projects, but would continue to make noise about them and hope to get the appropriate people interested in implementing them.

"As artists, our primary focus must be on producing art," Ratzlaff said. "If we turn into marketers or lobbyists, we become artists in name only. Artists who don't have any art to market."

The Artel also feels that it shouldn't be doing what others are being paid to do, but by making noise about it, they can cause pressure from within the system.

"We want people to begin asking the bureaucrats 'Why should the artists be forced to do your job for you?'"

Why indeed.

If you are interested in helping the Artel, or getting information, contact Nik Ratzlaff at (308) 234-6715 or write to 1418 Ave. B, Kearney NE 68847.

The Politics of Chicken...or Parts Isn't Parts

by John Boyd

We've come to expect a wide range of choices in grocery stores.

You can always choose between at least two brands of milk, butter, tomato paste, or you-name-it.

But there's a disturbing trend in area groceries to carry only one of the new name-brands of chicken.

Ordinarily, this wouldn't be of much concern. After all, as we all know, "parts is parts" when it comes to poultry.

The only problem is that my usual grocer (Bakers) stocks only Country Pride brand chicken, so does my occasional supermarket (HyVee).

What's wrong with Country Pride chicken? Probably nothing, but I'll never know for sure, because I'll never buy it. Country Pride is one of the many ConAgra brands.

It's easy to avoid Banquet, Armour, Holsum and the myriad other ConAgra brands because you have a choice at the supermarket.

I sent a customer comment card to Baker's. I did not demand that they stop stocking Country Pride, I only asked that they stock another brand in addition.

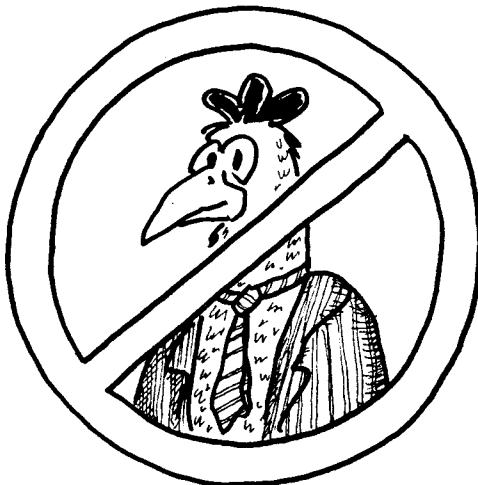
I guess the meat buyer missed the point, and thought I had a problem with my chicken, because I got a call from some guy who

works for Country Pride.

"I understand from Baker's that you had a problem with our product," he said.

"No," I explained, "I have a problem with your owner."

"Well, uh, it does say something here about you thinking ConAgra is anti-union. On what do you base that," he asked?



"I base that on what has happened to union workers at Armour and Monfort," I replied.

"Oh, uh, I guess I'm not familiar with that," he mumbled.

"Not only that," I continued, "I won't buy ConAgra products because they destroyed an entire National Register His-

toric District here in Omaha."

"Well!" he brightened, feeling he was on more familiar ground, and could better defend the corporate colors, "I understood that only a small minority was opposed to that!"

"I don't know how small a minority it was," said I, "but I was one of those people and I won't buy your chicken and I won't keep shopping at Baker's if that's all they stock."

"Oh," he said, giving up the fight.

Since Baker's meat buyer missed the point, and just passed my gripe off to Country Pride, I made myself a bit clearer in a letter to Jack Baker.

In a phone conversation, I repeated my concern about the lack of choice. Jack was sympathetic, but said he couldn't do much to change the situation. "I would love to stock two brands of chicken," he said, "but there's simply not enough room for two lines of poultry products."

As for why Bakers went with Country Pride, Baker said they offered "a better deal and a better product. ConAgra is more on-the-ball with merchandising, rebates and other reasons."

Baker said this kind of issue, like the Farm Workers' boycotts of lettuce and grapes, are "sensitive issues that trip up a grocer."

These are also sensitive issues that can

trip up a consumer.

That's why I'm shopping mostly at Food-4-Less these days -- they don't carry any Country Pride chicken.

If you want to make a political or social statement with your grocery budget, see the accompanying sidebars for more information on ConAgra products and the "Shopping for a Better World" guide to socially responsible supermarket shopping.

ConAgra Products

If you're serious about backing your anti-ConAgra sentiments at the grocery store, here's a partial list of ConAgra-owned brand names. Take it to the store. If in doubt, look for the little ConAgra logo on the package.

Foods: Armour, Banquet, Blue Star, Chun King, Country Skillet, Country Pride, Golden Star, Healthy Choice, Home Brand (Peanut Butter), Kids Cuisine, Longmont, Morton, Patio, Sensible Chef, Singleton, Taste O'Sea, Zap microwave snacks

Other Products: Geisler Pet Products, Singer Sewing Accessories

Retailing: Country General, Wheelers, Pfaltz Brothers, U.S. Tire, Northwest Fabrics

Guide Gives Consumer Tips on How to Shop for a Better World

If you want to broaden the political and social statement you make at the supermarket, I recommend the booklet "Shopping for a Better World, A Quick & Easy Guide to Socially Responsible Supermarket Shopping," published by the Council on Economic Priorities (CEP).

The guide rates corporations on Charitable Giving, Women's Advancement, Minority Advancement, Defense Contract involvement, Animal Testing, Social Disclosure, Community Outreach, Nuclear Power involvement, South African investment, and

Environmental concern.

ConAgra rated low in the 1988 edition on charitable giving; low on Women's advancement; very low on minority advancement; very low on social disclosure; and low on community outreach. ConAgra was not ranked, because of insufficient information, on animal testing and the environment. The firm had no involvement in Defense Contracts or Nuclear Power, and no investments or licensing agreements in South Africa.

In the 1990 edition, the rating system was changed to four levels: outstanding,

moderate, poor performance, or insufficient information.

ConAgra ranked poor on disclosure, therefore CEP had insufficient information to rank the firm on Charitable Giving, Minority Advancement, Animal Testing, Nuclear Power, or the newly added category of Family Benefits.

ConAgra got a middle ranking on Women's Advancement, Community Outreach, and the Environment, and had no involvement with Defense or South Africa.

The CEP also notes ConAgra's OSHA

Fines. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited ConAgra for inaccuracies in the documentation of worker injury and illness records. The company is alleged to have subjected its workers to hazardous conditions, resulting in cumulative injuries.

To get a copy of the 1990 pocket-sized edition of "Shopping for a Better World," send \$5.95 to CEP, 30 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003; or watch for the paperback-sized edition from Ballantine Books in your bookstore.

Church of Oppressor vs. Church of Oppressed

Thank you for reprinting Marge Farmer's letter on my behalf as I served my sentence for sitting in Archdiocesan offices last August. Apparently the letter-writing campaign worked. I had received a sentence of 75 days, but on the 36th day (Feb. 1) I was released.

We (Kevin McGuire and I) call our action a "Kairos" action and I've had several inquiries into the meaning of the word "Kairos." The word is taken from the name of a document written by Christians in seven

third-world countries to the church of the first world. The document says that we are at a "moment of truth" (Kairos), not because of the evil in the world -- that's nothing new -- but because the church is so divided by this evil. Indeed, the church has become two churches: the church of the poor and the oppressed, and the church of the oppressor. And the church of the oppressor is complicit in the sins which characterize evil of the oppressor because it sustains and supports and comforts the oppressor, justifies

the actions of the oppressor, and teaches people to submit to their own oppression.

It clearly states that the purpose of this document is NOT to call for reconciliation and unity. Indeed, the reality of first-world exploitation of the planet and its people is so far removed from gospel values that to even attempt reconciliation would violate the gospels beyond recognition. Instead these thousands of third-world Christians have challenged the church of the first world to CONVERSION to the gospel message of

Jesus Christ, who did not teach us how to raise huge armies or stockpile nuclear weapons or amass vast fortunes in order to dominate the world. He taught us how to LIVE! How to love and care for each other. How to relieve suffering. How to share with each other all that we have. How to be children of God, and how to recognize all others as children of God. And how to resist systems of injustice, oppression and exploitation.

This was the basis for our action.

--Marylyn Felion